

Message Text

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43

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O 191349Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8018

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 5451

EXDIS

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EG, IS, US, ENRG

SUBJECT: ISRAELI GUNBOAT MOLESTS AMOCO VESSEL

REF(A) STATE 196395; (B) CAIRO 8194

SUMMARY: DATT RECEIVED BRIEFING ON DEUTCHE TIDE INCIDENT FROM MAJOR GENERAL GAZIT, DMI, AT 1230Z 19 AUG. ISRAELI VERSION OF INCIDENT DIFFERS SIGNIFICANTLY, AND PREDICTABLY, FROM AMOCO VERSION. ACCORDING TO IDF, UNKNOWN SHIP TWICE CROSSED THE MEDIAN LINE AND APPROACHED TO WITHIN THREE MILES OF SINAI COAST. SHIP INTERCEPTED BY DABUR-CLASS PATROL BOAT AND DIRECTED TO LEAVE ISRAELI WATERS(SIC). END SUMMARY.

1. UPON RECEIPT OF REFTELS, DATT WAS INSTRUCTED TO SEEK FURTHER DETAILS ON DEUTCHE TIDE INCIDENT FROM IDF. HE REQUESTED URGENT MEETING WITH EITHER DMI OR CHIEF OF STAFF. AT 1100 Z DATT MET WITH DMI AND GAVE DETAILS CONTAINED REFTEL(B). AT 1230Z DMI BRIEFED DATT AS FOLLOWS:

2. AT 0500Z 17 AUG ISRAELIS OBSERVED A SHIP TRAVELING WEST TOEAST CROSSING THE MEDIAN LINE OF THE GULF OF SUEZ. SHIP MOVED TO POINT APPROXIMATELY THREE MILES FROM SINAI COAST (2807N3337E).

3. ACCORDING TO GAZIT, VESSEL DISPLAYED NAME " MORGAN CITY"
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AND DISPLAYED NO FLAG. ISRAEI SKIPPER ASKED MERSHI CAPTAIN

TO IDENTIFY HIMSELF. CAPTAIN GAVE TRUE NAME OF VESSEL AS
DEUTCH TIDE. THIS DISCREPANCY LED
ISRAELI SKIPPER TO ASK FOR SHIP'S PAPERS. PAPERS CONFIRMED
SHIP WAS THE DEUTCHE TIDE OUT OF NEW ORLEANS. ACCORDING
TO GAZIT, CREW CONSISTED OF THE U.S. CAPTAIN AND 13 EGYPTIAN
SAILORS.

4. AT THIS POINT, IDF VESSEL GOES, ISRAELI SKIPPER ASKED
CAPTAIN TO DISPLAY U.S. FLAG WHICH HE DID
WHEN ASKED WHY HE WAS WHERE HE WAS,
U.S. CAPTAIN APOLOGIZED AND SAID HE HAD SOME PROBLEMS WITH HIS
NAVIGATION.
AT THIS POINT HE WAS ORDERED TO GO WEST OF THE MEDIAN LINE,
WHICH HE DID.

5. AT 1930Z IDF AGAIN SAW A BOAT APPROACHING THE SINAI
COAST. VESSEL CROSSED MEDIAN LINE AND STEAMED NORTHEAST
TO SAME POINT AS MORNING INTERCEPT. IDF NAVY AGAIN INTERCEPTED
VESSEL WITH DABUR AT 2100Z. IT WAS THE SAME SHIP INTERCEPTED
IN MORNING. THIS TIME NO CLAIM OF NAVIGATION ERROR--CAPTAIN
SAID HE WAS PREPARING FOR DRILLING. ISRAELI SKIPPER AGAIN
ASKED DEUTCHE TIDE TO GO BACK, STRESSING THAT HE HAD NO BUSINESS
ON THE EAST SIDE OF THE MEDIAN LINE. GAZIT COULD NEITHER CONFIRM
NOR DENY THAT A THREAT TO OPEN FIRE HAD BEEN MADE.

6. GAZIT VOLUNTEERED THAT IDF NAVY'S STANDING ORDERS ARE NOT TO
INTERFERE WITH INNOCENT TRAFFIC SAILING NORTH OR SOUTH,
OR WITH VESSELS OBVIOUSLY IN VICINITY OF MORGAN OIL FIELDS.
ORDERS TO INTERCEPT ONLY APPLY TO VESSELS SAILING WEST TO EAST
WHICH CROSS THE MEDIAN LINE.

7. EMBASSY INTENDS TO TAKE NO FURTHER ACTION UNLESS SO INSTRUCTED.
TOON

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Message Attributes

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